

0071-1

Document 0071

Please do what you can personally to block the use of dirty power plants in Mexico so that energy companies can circumvent environmental regulations in the United States.

Even Mr. Bush may comprehend that air pollution has no high wall confining the damage to its source. Texans breathe the worst of this nation's air, but we all share in some of the Texas toxins, since air pollution is never confined to a single area. In fact, the bulk of all ambient industrial pollution finds its way to the polar regions, endangering indigenous populations. To a lesser extent, the temperate zones play host to pollution generated in warmer climates.

We need your help in passing the buck and the filth to Mexico. Such a policy would help no one.

Sincerely, Jan Saecker, Markesan WI

0070-1

0070-2

0070-3

Document 0070

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

The environment is all one piece. There may be variations in local severity, but taking advantage of less stringent standards in Mexico still dumps garbage into the world's air and water. This is a cynical and destructive practice. The Dept. of Energy should require Sempra Energy and Intergen, who engage in this practice to send power back to the U.S. while avoiding U.S. standards, to clean up their power plants before granting presidential permits. DOE should make this mitigation of the impact of electricity generation a condition of any permits.

Nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Sempra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threaten the health and well-being of highly stressed communities on both sides of the California- Mexico border.

Transporting electricity long distances is inherently inefficient. Doing so to avoid environmental standards is wrong. The fact that, violating the terms of its permit, Intergen failed to install advanced NOx controls on one of its export turbines on start-up in June, 2003 shows that monitoring, reporting, and enforcement need to be part of the permit, in addition to planned mitigation.

The water used for cooling also threatens critical wildlife habitat and causes additional particulate pollution by increasing the salinity and decreasing the volume of the Salton Sea. Retrofitting the existing wet cooling systems with parallel wet-dry cooling would greatly reduce consumptive water use at the plants while allowing the plants to generate full power on hot days. The parallel wet-dry option would also restore most of the river's flow to the sea and minimize particulate matter. Processing wastewater to reduce or eliminate salinity prior to discharge into the river would effectively address a pollutant of concern for the river and the sea.

These and other significant air and water impacts were identified in the draft environmental impact statement. The conclusion that these are not sufficient to require amelioration puts the short-term economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of public health and environmental health.

Why doesn't anyone ever talk about the economic interests of people who manufacture pollution control systems?

The final EIS should include mitigation measures and require them to be monitored and enforced, should any permits be issued.

Sincerely,

Diane Sklensky
166 Sherwood Ave.
Syracuse, New York 13203

0073-1

Document 0073

Ellen Russell
NEPA Document Manager
Office of Fossil Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585-0350

Dear Ms. Russell,

At a time when all responsible people on our planet should be working to reduce the burning of fossil fuels in order to slow climate change and global warming, U.S. power plant developers have gone across the border into Mexico to build plants to supply the U.S. energy market--a grossly irresponsible ploy to escape U.S. air pollution regulations.

I ask that the DOE not grant Intergen and Semptra Energy the right to sell energy in the U.S. if they pollute the air on the Mexico side of the border. Obviously the border will not protect U.S. citizens from the asthma, heart disease and other consequences of breathing foul air from power plant smokestacks.

The DOE's failure to require emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Semptra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threatens the health of communities on both sides of the border.

The DOE's responsibility is to the U.S. public, not to profits for energy providers. Please recognize this responsibility and protect our interests as you frame the final EIS for these power plants.

Sincerely,

Charlene Woodcock
--
Charlene Mayne Woodcock
2355 Virginia Street
Berkeley, CA 94709
(510) 843-8724

0072-1

Document 0072

To Whom It May Concern,
Please do not set a destructive precedent by allowing U.S. based energy-producing companies to bypass important restrictions that ensure the health and welfare of our and Mexico's citizens and transmit energy from higher polluting installations across the border into America. This would not be healthy for America or Mexico. It is important to maintain environmental safeguards to protect people and wildlife as much as possible. What kind of world are we leaving for the future? You have a role in the answer to that question!
Thank You,
Ernest Dain
ECDain@hotmail.com

0074-3

The draft EIS prepared by DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies these and other significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concluding that these impacts do not reach a sufficient interest to require mitigation in the United States and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these impacts further demonstrates the need for impact mitigation and conditional permitting.

DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens living in the vicinity of these plants, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based thereon, that effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by these two power plants.

Sincerely,

Rick Drayton
325 Elmwood Ave.
Newark, Ohio 43055

0074-1

0074-2

Document 0074

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

After living in Taxco Gurrero for some 30 odd years I have a very real understanding of the environmental sacrifices that Mexico is willing to make for a piece of the American pie. The uneducated character of the majority of the Mexican populace is the target of this fleecing of the American public. I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers attempting to make a killing by selling electricity that the US consumer is paying top dollar for and expects to be environmental friendly only to find out that these companies have struck a deal with Mexico to produce electricity with 1950 technology that emits enormous quantities of pollution. Maybe not on paper but in practice it will. With constant monitoring it can be controlled. It is true that the paper deals that the US companies have made are impressive. If these were backed by a legal system that prosecutes more than 2 percent of the street crime that occurs within its borders it would be encouraging. Mexico does not have environmental laws that are enforceable. Unfortunately we can't enforce our own laws in our own country. The US corporations have teamed with front companies set up across the border for three distinct reasons. One: To fraudulently sell electricity to unsuspecting US consumers who expect and assume that their electricity conform to the environmental standards that they have demanded from their congressional representatives. Two: To cut costs by half by scrimping on environmental protections and employing Mexican labor who have no union and make one fourth of their American counterpart. The horrible conditions just across the border attest to the total social failure of trying to set up manufacturing operations across the border without a significant investment in Housing, WATER, WATER, WATER. I ask that the Department of Energy require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before granting presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

Intergen failed to install advanced NOx controls on one of its export turbines on start-up in June, 2003.

The Salton Sea suffers from increasing salinity that may ultimately jeopardize its status as one of the most important migratory bird habitats in the West. Approximately 3.5 billion gallons per year of water are evaporated by the power plants that would otherwise moderate the Sea's salinity problem and increase flow in the New River, while nearly 1 billion gallons of high salinity wastewater are dumped into the river.

Water diversion accentuates New River and Salton Sea salinity, and reduces the volume of the Sea, exposing more shoreline to wind erosion, resulting in up to 100 tons per year of additional particulate matter.

Document 0075

Mrs. Ellen Russell
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mrs. Russell:

I would like to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Imperial-Mexicali 230-kV Transmission Lines (Federal Register: May 11, 2004).

I urge the Department of Energy (DOE) not to grant the proposed presidential permits for the construction of transmission lines connecting to two Mexican power plants unless Baja California Power, Inc. (InterGen) and Semptra Energy Resources (Semptra) meet all federal environmental laws.

As a resident of southern California and frequent visitor to the Salton Sea to bird watch, I am extremely concerned that the Mexican power plants, La Rosita Power Project and Termoeléctrica de Mexicali, violate U.S. air emissions standards and threaten the health of the New River and Salton Sea ecosystems.

The Draft EIS fails to require adequate air quality mitigation measures such as emission offsets for nitrogen oxide and particulates, without which the power plants will exacerbate already poor air quality in the Imperial Valley basin and threaten public health on both sides of the border. It also fails to require adequate monitoring, reporting, and enforcement provisions that are necessary in light of InterGen's previous release of hundreds of tons of excess nitrogen oxide in June, 2003.

The Draft EIS also fails to adequately address the deleterious impact of these plants on the water quality of the New River and Salton Sea. Both plants divert billions of gallons of low salinity water annually from the New River to evaporative cooling towers and return to the River nearly 1 billion gallons of high salinity wastewater. This diversion reduces the Salton Sea's volume, resulting in additional particulates from shoreline erosion, and increases its salinity, damaging the ecosystem and threatening one of the most significant migratory bird habitats in the United States. The DOE should include in the Final EIS requirements that the existing plant cooling systems are retrofitted with parallel wet-dry cooling to reduce water consumption and that wastewater is processed to reduce or eliminate salinity.

I urge the DOE to make the protection of air quality, public health, and wildlife dependent on the Salton Sea paramount by holding InterGen and Semptra accountable to all U.S. environmental regulations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Lamb
13250 Chandler Boulevard
Sherman Oaks, CA 91401

0075-3

Comment and Response Document

Imperial-Mexicali FEIS

0075-1

0075-2

Document 0076

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

Water and air pollution do not recognize borders. The air blows and streams flow right over those dotted lines on maps. By building power plants across the border in Mexico, the energy industry trying to escape the jurisdiction of US environmental laws, and yet the pollution they produce contaminates Mexico and comes right back across the border to the US. I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before granting presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water. Imperial County, California, has the highest childhood asthma rate in the state. Pulmonary sickness rates are also elevated in Mexicali, a city of 600,000 just south of Imperial County in Mexico. DOE's failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Sempra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threatens the health and well-being of highly stressed communities on both sides of the border.

Intergen failed to install advanced NOx controls on one of its export turbines on start-up in June, 2003. Hundreds of tons of NOx beyond what had been estimated when DOE initially granted Intergen a permit were therefore released. This incident proves that, in addition to adequate mitigation measures, ongoing monitoring, reporting, and enforcement provisions in the presidential permits are vital.

The two power plants divert tremendous amounts of low salinity water from the New River to evaporative cooling towers -- water that would otherwise flow to the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in Imperial County, California. The Salton Sea suffers from increasing salinity that may ultimately jeopardize its status as one of the most important migratory bird habitats in the West. Approximately 3.5 billion gallons per year of water are evaporated by the power plants that would otherwise moderate the Sea's salinity problem and increase flow in the New River, while nearly 1 billion gallons of high salinity wastewater are dumped into the river.

Water diversion accentuates New River and Salton Sea salinity, and reduces the volume of the Sea, exposing more shoreline to wind erosion, resulting in up to 100 tons per year of additional particulate matter.

The draft EIS prepared by DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies these and other significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concluding that these impacts do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality

ceiling of 4,000 mg/l salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these impacts further demonstrates the need for impact mitigation and conditional permitting.

DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens living in the vicinity of these plants, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based thereon, that effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by these two power plants.

Sincerely,

Alan Forsberg
60 Linda St.
San Francisco, California 94110

0076-1

0076-2

0076-3

0076-3
(cont.)

0078-1

Document 0078

Dear Ellen Russell,

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy (DOE) require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concludes that these problems do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. The DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality ceiling of 4,000 mg/l salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these effects further demonstrates the need for mitigation and conditional permitting.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

Sincerely,

Jann Howell
Greenville, SC

0077-1

Document 0077

Dear Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham c/o Mrs. Ellen Russell

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent standards in Mexico to make additional profits in the U.S. at the expense of public health and the environment.

Secretary Abraham, as the head of the Department of Energy, you should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS that effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by the power plants. I also urge you to work together with the Mexican and California governments to bring clean renewable energy solutions to the region. Renewable energy like wind and solar will solve the air and water problems that plague the area and help solve our looming global warming crisis.

Sincerely,
KATHALEEN PARKER
MONROVIA, California

0080-1

Document 0080

Ellen Russell
NEPA Document Manager
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ms Russell,
I am writing to you to express my concerns about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy (DOE) require Intergen and Sempra Energy to mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the DOE for these two power plants, Intergen’s La Rosita Power Complex and Sempra’s Termoelectrica de Mexicali, clearly identifies significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concluding that these problems do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. The DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality ceiling of 4,000 mg/l salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these effects further demonstrates the need for mitigation and conditional permitting.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

Sincerely,

Harry A Freiberg III
610 Mardon Ct
Brookings, OR 97415

0079-1

Document 0079

Allowing power plant developers selling power in the American market to take advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico sets a disastrous precedent. I ask that the Department of Energy (DOE) require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border already suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water. Imperial County, California, has the highest childhood asthma rate in the state.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concludes that these problems do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. The DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin limits on salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico. Inclusion of these effects further demonstrates the need for mitigation and conditional permitting.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

Sincerely,

Michael Heaney